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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
Fifty-sixth session
New York
18 March-4 April 1996

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Human Rights Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 18 March to 4 April 1996. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 18 March 1996 at 10.30 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 33 of the Committee's rules of procedure the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Covenant or the Optional Protocol that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the fifty-sixth session. In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, representatives of States parties may be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

5. At its fifty-fifth session, the Committee decided that two working groups, established under rules 62 and 89 of its rules of procedure, should meet for a period of one week prior to its fifty-sixth session. The working groups are scheduled to meet at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 15 March 1996.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected member of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant.

3. Organizational and other matters.

4. Action by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session:

   (a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant;

   (b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments.

5. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

6. Consideration of reports submitted by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

7. General comments of the Committee.

8. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

9. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Under rule 8 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda for any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, during a session, the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected member of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant.

In accordance with article 38 of the Covenant and rule 16 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the member of the Committee who will be elected by a meeting of States parties to the Covenant to fill a vacancy in the Committee resulting from the resignation of Mrs. Rosalyn Higgins (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) will make the following solemn declaration:

"I solemnly undertake to discharge my duties as a member of the Human Rights Committee impartially and conscientiously".

3. Organizational and other matters.

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the session. In this connection, it may be noted that the Committee decided at its fifty-fifth session to set up, in addition to the pre-sessional working group on communications, a working group under article 40 of the Covenant to prepare concise lists of issues concerning reports scheduled for consideration at the fifty-sixth session, and to further review the Committee's procedures under article 40 of the Covenant, in the light of the discussion on that subject at the Committee's fifty-fifth session.

4. Action by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session:

(a) Annual report submitted by the Human Rights Committee under article 45 of the Covenant

In accordance with the Committee's decision at its fifteenth session, a note indicating the matters raised in the course of the discussion of the annual report by the Third Committee, along with the relevant General Assembly resolution and other documentation pertaining to the International Covenants on Human Rights, will be circulated to members of the Committee.

(b) Effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments

A note indicating matters raised in the course of the discussion of the effective implementation of United Nations instruments on human rights and

effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to such instruments by the Third Committee together with the relevant General Assembly resolution will be circulated to members of the Committee.

5. Submission of reports by State parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

Reports received

In addition to the reports which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session (see the timetable for consideration of reports under item 6 below), the Secretary-General has received the reports of the following States parties: 1/

State party	Symbol	Report	Due	Received
Gabon	CCPR/C/31/Add.4	Initial	1984	16 November 1995
Brazil	CCPR/C/81/Add.6	Initial	1994	17 November 1994
Switzerland	CCPR/C/81/Add.8	Initial	1993	24 February 1995
Cyprus	CCPR/C/94/Add.1	Third	1994	28 December 1994
Iceland	CCPR/C/94/Add.2	Third	1994	23 March 1995
Denmark	CCPR/C/64/Add.11	Third	1990	7 April 1995
Belarus	CCPR/C/84/Add.4	Fourth	1993	11 April 1995
Germany	CCPR/C/84/Add.5	Fourth	1993	12 September 1995
Finland	CCPR/C/95/Add.6	Fourth	1994	10 August 1995
Senegal	CCPR/C/103/Add.1	Fourth	1995	19 September 1995

Reports due

The situation with regard to the submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant is as follows:

States parties whose reports were due by the closing date of the fifty-fifth session (3 November 1995) but not yet received

INITIAL REPORTS

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Equatorial Guinea	24 December 1988	13
Somalia	23 April 1991	8
Zimbabwe	12 August 1992	6
Croatia	7 October 1992	4
Grenada	5 December 1992	5

INITIAL REPORTS (continued)

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	16 September 1992	1
Israel	2 January 1993	5
Albania	3 January 1993	5
Lithuania	15 February 1993	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5 March 1993	1
Angola 2/	9 April 1993	-
Benin	11 June 1993	3
Côte d'Ivoire	25 June 1993	2
Seychelles	4 August 1993	4
Cambodia	25 August 1993	2
Lesotho	8 December 1993	1
Czech Republic	31 December 1993	1
Slovakia	31 December 1993	1
Republic of Moldova	25 April 1994	2
Ethiopia	10 September 1994	2
Dominica	16 September 1994	2
Armenia	22 September 1994	2
Mozambique	20 October 1994	2
Nigeria	28 October 1994	2
Cape Verde	5 November 1994	1
Malawi	21 March 1995	1
Georgia	2 August 1995	-

SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS

Syrian Arab Republic	18 August 1984	23
Gambia	21 June 1985	21
Suriname	2 August 1985	20
Lebanon	21 March 1986	20
Kenya	11 April 1986	19
Mali	11 April 1986	19
Jamaica	1 August 1986	17
Guyana	10 April 1987	17
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	13 December 1987	15
Central African Republic	9 April 1989	12
Gabon	20 April 1989	-
Congo	4 January 1990	11
Bolivia	13 July 1990	8
Viet Nam	31 July 1991	8
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	31 October 1991	8

SECOND PERIODIC REPORTS (continued)

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
San Marino	17 January 1992	7
Sudan	17 June 1992	5
Philippines	22 January 1993	5
Equatorial Guinea 3/	24 December 1993	3
Niger	31 March 1994	3
THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS		
Lebanon 4/	21 March 1988	15
Syrian Arab Republic 4/	18 August 1989	12
Trinidad and Tobago	20 March 1990	11
Gambia 4/	21 June 1990	10
Suriname 4/	2 August 1990	10
Barbados	11 April 1991	9
Kenya 4/	11 April 1991	9
Mali 4/	11 April 1991	9
Nicaragua	11 June 1991	8
Zaire	31 July 1991	8
Jamaica 4/	1 August 1991	8
Portugal	1 August 1991	7
Australia	12 November 1991	7
France	3 February 1992	6
India	31 March 1992	7
Panama	31 March 1992	7
Guyana 4/	10 April 1992	7
Rwanda 1/	10 April 1992	-
Madagascar	31 July 1992	6
Central African Republic 4/	7 August 1992	6
Democratic People's Republic of Korea 4/	13 December 1992	5
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 4/	8 February 1993	5
Austria	9 April 1993	4
Bolivia 4/	11 November 1993	1
Viet Nam 4/	23 December 1993	3
United Republic of Tanzania	31 December 1993	3
Venezuela	31 December 1993	3
Gabon 4/	20 April 1994	-
Afghanistan	23 April 1994	-
Belgium	20 July 1994	2

THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS (continued)

State party	Date due	Number of reminders sent
Luxembourg	17 November 1994	1
Bulgaria	31 December 1994	1
Egypt	31 December 1994	1
Guinea	31 December 1994	1
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	31 December 1994	1
Congo	4 January 1995	1
Zambia	9 July 1995	-
Cameroon	26 September 1995	-

FOURTH PERIODIC REPORTS

Lebanon 5/	21 March 1993	3
Panama 6/	6 June 1993	4
Madagascar 6/	3 August 1993	4
Yugoslavia	3 August 1993	4
Ecuador	4 November 1993	4
Mauritius	4 November 1993	-
Dominican Republic	3 April 1994	3
Chile	28 April 1994	2
Syrian Arab Republic 5/	18 August 1994	2
Poland	27 October 1994	2
Romania	31 December 1994	1
Uruguay	31 December 1994	1
Trinidad and Tobago 6/	20 March 1995	1
Canada	4 April 1995	1
Iraq	4 April 1995	1
Mongolia	4 April 1995	1
Gambia 5/	21 June 1995	-
India	9 July 1995	-
Colombia	2 August 1995	-
Costa Rica	2 August 1995	-
Hungary	2 August 1995	-
Suriname	2 August 1995	-
Venezuela	1 November 1995	-
Denmark	1 November 1995	-

States parties whose reports are to be submitted between the closing date of the Committee's fifty-fifth session (3 November 1995) and the closing date of its fifty-sixth session (4 April 1996)

Second periodic reports

State party	Date due
Algeria	11 December 1995
Ireland	7 March 1996

Third periodic reports

El Salvador	31 December 1995
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	31 December 1995
Togo	31 December 1995

Fourth periodic reports

Italy	31 December 1995

6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant.

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the fifty-sixth session, prepared in consultation with the Chairman and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Timetable for consideration of reports of States parties

Mauritius (third periodic)	CCPR/C/64/Add.12	Tuesday, a.m./p.m.	19 March 1996
		Wednesday, a.m.	20 March 1996
Spain (fourth periodic)	CCPR/C/95/Add.1	Wednesday, p.m.	20 March 1996
		Thursday, a.m./p.m.	21 March 1996
Guatemala (initial)	CCPR/C/81/Add.7	Tuesday, a.m.	26 March 1996
		Thursday, a.m.	28 March 1996
Zambia (second periodic)	CCPR/C/63/Add.3	Tuesday, p.m.	26 March 1996
		Wednesday, a.m./p.m.	27 March 1996
Peru (third periodic)	CCPR/C/83/Add.1	Thursday, p.m.	28 March 1996
		Friday, a.m./p.m.	29 March 1996
Nigeria (urgent report) 7/	-	Monday, a.m./p.m.	1 April 1996

In accordance with rule 68 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session.

7. General comments of the Committee.

Following a decision taken by the Committee during its fifty-fifth session, discussion of draft general comments will henceforth be dealt with under a separate agenda item. Under this item, the Committee will resume consideration of a draft general comment relating to article 25 of the Covenant which had been initiated at its fifty-third session. It will also review past general comments with a view to identifying provisions of the Covenant which have not yet been addressed as well as comments which would deserve to be updated.

8. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of the rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under the Optional Protocol.

One hundred and twenty-eight communications are pending before the Committee from earlier sessions. Taking into account the deadlines established by the Committee for submission of further information from the parties, 41 cases (earlier declared admissible) may be considered for the adoption of final views and 87 cases may be considered for a decision on admissibility. In addition, the Committee will have before it summaries of a number of recently registered communications and summaries of new communications registered after its last session, together with an indication of any action which may have been taken by the Special Rapporteur for new communications.

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 3, of the Optional Protocol and rule 82 of the Committee's rules of procedure, this agenda item will be considered in closed meetings.

9. Follow-up on views adopted pursuant to article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

Under this item, the Committee will assess the status of follow-up activities under the Optional Protocol and examine periodic reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur for the follow-up on views.

Notes

1/ The Secretary-General has also received supplementary reports from Kenya and the Gambia which the Committee will consider together with those States parties' second periodic reports.

2/ The Committee has requested the Government to submit a special report for discussion by the Committee.

3/ The State party's initial report has not yet been received.

4/ The State party's second periodic report has not yet been received.

5/ The State party's second and third periodic reports have not yet been received.

6/ The State party's third periodic report has not yet been received.

7/ On 29 November 1995, the Chairman, acting under rule 66, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure on behalf of and in consultation with the members of the Committee, requested the Government of Nigeria to submit a report relating to the protection of human rights under the Covenant, particularly in respect of the application of articles 6, 7 and 14 of the Covenant, for discussion during the Committee's fifty-sixth session. Upon receipt, the report will be issued under the symbol CCPR/C/112.